Serving Teens, Librarians of the Future

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Outcomes

• Review the YALSA/Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant and how it was utilized as a catalyst for change in teen programming at TCPL

• Consider how offering teens service opportunities impacts them, the library and community

• Begin the discussion on how we are serving teens at our libraries and providing them with opportunities for service
Background

• Trimble County statistics
• The population we serve
• Library facts
Teen Programming

- Teen Advisory Group
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Need for change
Grant Process

How will the internship be promoted and potential candidates identified?

• Promote to TAG members
• Visits to high school
• Working with guidance counselor
• Community
Grant Process

What will the application process be like?

• Application, guidelines
• Informational meeting
• Community support, partnership with Kentucky Youth Career Center (formerly Kentuckiana Works)
• Interviews
• Finalists
Grant Process

What will the internship entail?

• Programming, outreach, promotions
• Learning by observation, then specific assignments
• Opportunities for community programming, Summer Feeding
Grant Process

What will be gained by hosting this internship?

• For the intern
  • In our final review, the intern said she gained new social skills, leadership abilities and also realized new things she was capable of. The internship caused her to think about her future.

• For the library
  • Our Summer Reading Program was fantastic with more programming and outreach and great numbers – due to having the extra help from our intern and volunteers.

• For the community
  • Benefit of having a more quality Summer Reading Program.
VolunTeens

- Application
- Meetings
- Responsibilities, roles in Summer Reading
- Sense of ownership and pride in their work
- Showing appreciation
- Why is it important to provide teens with service opportunities? Search-institute.org: 40 Developmental Needs of Adolescents; includes empowerment: community values youth, youth as resources, service to others
New & Improved

• Teen Advisory Group
  • 2/3 increase in attendance from September 2013 to September 2014!
• Promoting TAG at schools
• Current projects: TAG teens are helping plan a Teen Read Week contest, they are decorating our teen space at the library to look like a tree house for fall, and playing characters in a community Murder Mystery for Halloween
Lessons Learned

• Flexibility
• Open communication
• Extra time for guidance
• Reminder calls, backup plans
• Supervise without lurking!
Future Goals

• Life-sized games (PACMAN, Battle Ship)
• Partnership with senior center
• Adult programming – Social Media for Dummies panel of teen experts
• Our intern went above and beyond her duties and created a Tumblr account for the library, now she is volunteering to work on that and also to create an Instagram account
Discussion

• Do you have a Teen Advisory Group at your library?
• How often do they meet?
• What do you do in TAG?
• How are you using teen volunteers?